

FILED

12/07/2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: AF 09-0688

ORIGINAL

Clerk of the Montana Supreme Court
P.O. Box 203003
Helena, MT 59620-3003
Fax: 406-444-5705

Re: Professional Rules of Conduct, Rule 8.4(g)

Honorable Members of the Court,

You have called for public comment on the proposed new Rule 8.4(g) of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. As a concerned member of the community, I hereby submit my request that you reject this rule. My position on the issues of gender identity, religion, and same sex marriage are beside the point. It is simply not appropriate for the government to overstep its reach in this manner. The role of government is not to enforce compliance in regards to personal beliefs, and definitely not to stifle free speech in the public square. In an effort to prevent discrimination, it is counterproductive to discriminate against professionals who hold certain beliefs regarding marriage and sexual orientation and not allow them to respectfully express those beliefs.

The first amendment protects the religious freedom of our citizens, the freedom to talk about and act on core beliefs without interference from government or others. The proposed rule would be a grievous case of government overreach.

Respectfully,
Erin Walker

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